NGAC Resolution – Next Generation 3D Elevation Program

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) has released a draft of the "The 3D National Topography Model Call for Action Part 2: Next Generation of the 3D Elevation Program". The next generation plan was developed to address the future needs of users based on extensive user data from the 3D Nation Elevation Requirements and Benefits Study and experience in managing the 3D Elevation Program baseline initiative. The proposed next generation 3DEP plan would:

- Meet 66% of the documented needs of users of elevation data
- Provide an estimated $7.6 billion in annual benefits at a yearly cost of $259 million
- Provide a shorter collection cycle
- Provide repeat coverage of higher quality elevation data
- Provide an active research phase to utilize the latest technology and provide the highest quality elevation data to the United States and territories
- Expand activities to include inland bathymetry
- Develop a plan for coordinating with other federal agencies and a broad range of partner agencies to advance the development of a new topobathymetric component of 3DEP
- Develop a new data management system (3D Nation Ecosystem) that will provide users access to USGS and partner elevation data

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee's recently published "Assessment of the 3D Elevation Program" included the following recommendation:

> *"USGS should implement the design for the next generation of 3DEP described in the 3D National Topography Model Call for Action Part 2: Next Generation 3D Elevation Program ("the 3DNTM draft plan") due for publication by USGS later this year."*

The Next Generation of the 3D Elevation Program will enhance the 3DEP program, meet the needs of current and future users of elevation data, and effectively utilize new technology. The National Geospatial Advisory Committee endorses the "The 3D National Topography Model Call for Action Part 2: Next Generation of the 3D Elevation Program" and encourages USGS to move forward with the activities outlined in the plan.

***Approved by the NGAC on October 12, 2023**